

**From:** a brody  
**To:** Microsoft ATR,microsoftcomments@doj.ca.gov@inetgw,...  
**Date:** 11/24/01 7:17pm  
**Subject:** I understand your offices are for a Microsoft settlement

Dear sirs,

I am doing this joint e-mail because it applies to all your offices. It appears according to news stories, that you have joined in agreement with Microsoft to let them get by on their penalty for being a monopoly, by letting them face no stiffer penalty than a 1 billion dollar funding program to low income schools. This penalty is a GIFT! It is the schools where the hearts and minds of all our future computer users are being met. And the fact it is low income schools it doubly sends the message that Microsoft is the sole provider of computer services to school systems and their kids. Guess what, most school systems don't use Microsoft. Support costs for schools are much cheaper because most use the Apple Macintosh platform in its stead. If you force Microsoft technology on schools, these school systems will be forced to recoup support costs 100 times higher than they presently have for computers. If you don't believe what I am saying, visit [http://homepage.mac.com/mac\\_vs\\_pc/Intro.html](http://homepage.mac.com/mac_vs_pc/Intro.html)

And Microsoft is only going to be obliged to cover the first 1 billion dollars. After that, it is up to the poor school systems that previously didn't have to pay these high support costs to come up with the moneys. This means teachers will be laid off. This means music programs will be cut. This means after school activities will be cut. This means the school systems will go further down the hill than they were already. And why? Because now each of the school systems will be forced to upgrade each time a new technology comes. If they don't upgrade and their computer breaks down, they'll be forced to buy new computers if they want to keep any computer systems in their place. Where before with Macintosh systems, they could have a 9 year old Macintosh, and it still act as a functional tutorial machine for using computers. Allowing Microsoft to pay off their penalties as a limited settlement to schools, is equivalent to letting Microsoft expand their market by giving away its systems to people who formerly were happy with their competitor's systems. What waste!

I strongly urge you to reconsider, and find a stiffer penalty for Microsoft, so they don't get off the hook so easily for being a monopoly. Such stiffer penalties would include forcing Microsoft to end its Windows XP and Office XP activation system, which requires people to pay an upgrade cost for the operating system every 6 hardware charges. This licensing scheme means people will be forced to be online to continue to be able to use their Windows XP system and provide personal information each time they want to reactivate

their machines after a hardware change. And for people upgrading from their old operating system with more than one computer they have to purchase an individual license for each computer they own. Apple Macintosh doesn't force you to do this. Microsoft is making the cost of computing go up astronomically by its activation scheme. Microsoft should no longer have an integrated web browser of their own on the desktop of the operating system. That feature should be disabled permanently. People being able to launch Explorer straight from the desktop by manually entering the website address from their desktop and operating system windows means Explorer is everywhere. Microsoft now limits support for MP3 music formats where before they were free. Apple doesn't do that. Microsoft should not disable technologies of third party vendors. It is acting like a monopoly. I'm not the only one sad by this turn of events, and hope you reconsider. Here are other people's opinions of your actions:

[http://www.macdirectory.com/4U/comments.fm\\$FIND?title=4001515&max=40](http://www.macdirectory.com/4U/comments.fm$FIND?title=4001515&max=40)

Please reconsider.

Sincerely,  
anonymous

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<http://www.index-site.com/>